

Editorial

Translational science has become an important buzzword not only in the biomedical fields but in behavior analysis as well. Although definitions of translational science abound, at least in behavior analysis, it can broadly be thought of as enhancing commerce between basic and applied researchers. Of course, exchanges between basic and applied researchers can be accomplished in many ways. For example, all applied research, as published in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA)*, may be considered translational (Lerman, 2003) in the sense that it involves the application of principles and procedures discovered and refined in the basic laboratory. And over the years, occasional studies in the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior (JEAB)* have addressed practical problems (Mazur, 2010).

Until fairly recently, there were only a few specific calls for more cooperation between basic and applied researchers in behavior analysis (e.g., Hake, 1982; Mace, 1994; Mace & Wacker, 2004; Wacker, 2000). However, explicit attempts to promote translational research in behavior analysis have become increasingly common (e.g., Mace & Critchfield, 2010; Poling, 2010). Also, in the last several years, both *JABA* and *JEAB* have published special issues devoted specifically to translational research (Lerman, 2003; Mazur, 2010); and *JEAB* actually has assigned a special editor (Charles Mace) for translational research. Similarly, the fall issue of Volume 32 of *The Behavior Analyst (TBA)* contained a special section of printed versions of a series of translational science lectures that were presented at the annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in 2009 (Thompson & Hackenberg, 2009). One might say that the

behaviors of many basic and applied behavior analysts regarding translational research are gaining momentum.

The discussion of translational research in behavior analysis continues in this issue of *TBA*, with Critchfield's article and commentaries from six prominent behavior analysts. In his article, Critchfield suggests that the experimental analysis of behavior (EAB) is still too esoteric (see Poling, 2010) and argues that a translational research agenda will be more likely to attract tangible support for basic research in EAB. In so doing, Critchfield believes that addressing practical problems will not mean that basic researchers would have to abandon their focus on fundamental principles. In short, his essay is intended to promote constructive discussion on these matters. And so it does, in commentaries by Marc Branch, Alan Poling and Timothy L. Edwards, Allen Neuringer, Timothy Vollmer, Carol Pilgrim, and Iser DeLeon.

Following the Critchfield article and the commentaries, there is a special section on animal scent detection. First, Poling and colleagues describe how principles of operant conditioning are being used to train giant African pouched rats (*Cricetomys gambianus*) to detect tuberculosis. In the second paper, Jones describes work on training dogs to detect land mines. These efforts to exploit the principles of operant conditioning to train animals to detect two modern-day scourges in certain parts of the world nicely illustrate one area of translational research. Moreover, research in these areas will likely be applicable to other, related endeavors.

In addition to the special sections above, an article by McKerchar, Morris, and Smith presents a quantitative analysis and natural history

of B. F. Skinner's coauthoring practices. The authors identify Skinner's coauthored publications and coauthors, analyze them in terms of several features, and compare them with those in the scientometric literature.

The issue also contains a special *On Terms* piece by Carr and Briggs, in which they provide a very useful annotated bibliography of 35 *On Terms* articles in *TBA* between 1979 and 2010, and is followed by the Association for Behavior Analysis International Statement on Restraint and Seclusion.

It is my sad duty to include the obituaries of five prominent behavior analysts: Ivar Lovaas, Masaya Sato, James Dougan, Howard Sloane, and Daniel Cerutti. We behavior analysts are few enough, so to lose five in less than one year is a blow to our field. It is especially devastating to lose the two relatively young behavior analysts—Jim Dougan and Dan Cerutti—not only because of their ages, but also because they were both intrepid experimental behavior analysts who were skilled as both teachers and innovative researchers, and, I might add, who exemplified the kind of basic researcher who naturally engaged in translational science.

Finally, this issue would not have come to fruition without the help from TBA's two associate editors,

Jim Carr and Matt Normand. I extend my thanks to both of them.

Henry D. Schlinger, Jr.

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